

both in the classroom and on the athletic field. Kenny graduated Woodlands High School with honors in 1981 and after graduation, he accepted a baseball scholarship to attend Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.

In 1985, Kenny completed his degree from Tulane and signed a Letter of Intent with the Cincinnati Reds of Major League Baseball. He also completed two years of AA Baseball in Birmingham, Alabama and one year in Yasu, Japan.

In 1989, Kenny became a Master Mason and member of The Bright Hope Lodge No. 62 in White Plains, New York. Kenny elevated to Worshipful Master in 2003 and has held a number of appointed Grand Lodge offices for MWPHGL of New York, including Grand Librarian (2004 to 2009) and DDGM (2010 to Present). He is also affiliated with Bright Hope Chapter No. 46, Pentecost Consistory No. 98 and A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Elejmal Temple No. 185.

Professionally, Kenny was employed by IBM for 28 years, where he moved up the corporate ladder, and today serves as Corporate Security Supervisor for Century Protective Services. He is also a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in White Plains, NY, where he is involved in several activities sponsored by the church. In addition, Kenny was involved in many community activities such as: Feeding the Less Fortunate, Widows Mother's Day Breakfast, Thanksgiving Food Basket Giveaway, and coaching youth baseball.

Kenny has always been willing to lend a helping hand, which is why he is receiving this great honor. I want to congratulate and thank him for all he has done to better our community.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY AND CONNIE BUTTLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Terry and Connie Butler of Guthrie Center, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 30th.

Terry and Connie's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

HONORING AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a devoted and inspirational church, the

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST), of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This year AECST celebrates 225 years of dedicated ministry and service to the community of Philadelphia. AECST has provided 225 years of "Legacy, Faith, and Hope". AECST was founded in 1792, by Reverend Absalom Jones and stands as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. It is also recognized as one of two oldest black churches in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Historically, AECST was founded to provide religious support, foster personal and religious freedoms, and self-determination for persons of African descent. The original African Church was an outgrowth of the Free African Society, a mutual aid organization established in 1787 by Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and others to assist the Black population in Philadelphia. The early religious services were held in private homes and in a school. Within the congregation were many who, because of growing racial tension and insults had followed the lay preachers, Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, broke away from the St. George's Methodist Church. Affiliation with the Episcopal Church was ratified in 1794. The Reverend Absalom Jones became the first Episcopal priest of African American descent and the first rector of St. Thomas' Church.

AECST has been in the vanguard of action to sustain the legacy of humanitarianism and community outreach passed down from its founders. Admirably, AECST's clergy and parishioners have played key roles in the abolition, anti-slavery and Underground Railroad movements and the early equal rights movement of the 1800's. Over the past fifty years, AECST has figured prominently in the civil rights movement, The NAACP, Union of Black Episcopalians, Opportunities Industrialization Center, Philadelphia Interfaith Action and The Episcopal Church Women. Paramount, however, has been the movement to uphold the knowledge and value of the Black presence in the Episcopal Church. Today, that tradition continues with an ever-growing membership and through a host of ministries such as Christian Formation, the Chancel Choir, Gospel Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Men's Fellowship, Young Adult and Youth Ministries, a Church School, Health Ministry, Caring Ministry, and a Shepherding Program.

Today, AECST flourishes as an open, Christ-centered community of faith where the Gospel is taught, lived and spread. As evidenced through AECST's history, they have a longstanding dedication toward advocating and improving the lives of others.

The 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas for its dedicated support to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE STIMSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Irene Stimson of Blanchard, Iowa on the very special occasion of her 100th birthday. Irene was born on October 19, 1917.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Irene's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Irene has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Irene in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Irene on reaching this incredible milestone, and in wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes held on November 28, 2017, I was inescapably detained handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on H.R. 2768, and NO on H.R. 3115.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2017 NODAWAY VALLEY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Nodaway Valley High School Boys Cross Country team for winning the Iowa Class 1A State Cross Country Championship for the third consecutive year. In addition to the championship, the team set a program record with an average time of 16:56 for their seven varsity runners.

I would like to congratulate each member of the team:

Runners: Brycen Wallace, Skyler Rawlings, Austin Lundy, Joel Blazek, Joshua Baudler, Tyler Breheny and Ben Breheny

Head Coach: Darrell Burmeister

Assistant Coaches: David Swanson, Phyllis Eshelman, Alyse Herr Dreher

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young men for their achievements in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MEL TILLIS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to country music's stellar singer-songwriter Mel Tillis, the Country Music Association's entertainer of the year in 1976, who overcame a lifetime of stuttering through song. Lonnie Melvin Tillis died earlier this month at 85. He had six No. 1 country singles as a singer, including "Good Woman Blues" in 1976 and "Southern Rains" in 1981 and wrote such memorable tunes as "I'm Tired" for Webb Pierce, "The Snakes Crawl at Night" for Charley Pride and, with Danny Dill and Carl Perkins, the Patsy Cline hit "So Wrong." Mel's songs explored the dark caverns of deep emotion typified by his somber ballad "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town," about a cheating wife, which was a big hit for Kenny Rogers in 1969. Mel was also inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1976 and to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2007. I want to extend my condolences to his family, particularly my friend and Mel's singer-songwriter daughter Pam Tillis, who recorded a tribute disk for her father in 2002: "It's All Relative: Tillis Sings Tillis." Although he was born and died in Florida, Tennesseans and all Americans will remember and cherish forever his lovely baritone and haunting lyrics. America has lost a true original.

TRIBUTE TO MARY AND LARRY HARRISON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mary and Larry Harrison of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 9, 1967 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Corning, Iowa.

Mary and Larry's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

PANCREATIC CANCER

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, November has been dedicated as Pancreatic

Cancer Awareness Month. As such, I would like to help acknowledge all those affected by this type of cancer and to bring more awareness to the medical research needed to help fight this disease.

In June 2017, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network reported that pancreatic cancer is ranked the ninth most commonly diagnosed cancer among women and the 11th among men, and is the third leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States.

In fact, I have been contacted by several constituents who have lost loved ones to pancreatic cancer.

According to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, pancreatic cancer is often found in its advanced stages and is both difficult to detect and to treat. Unfortunately, major symptoms of pancreatic cancer, which include nausea, diabetes, abdominal or back pain, and loss of appetite, among others, are often overlooked as symptomatic of more common health conditions. The organization stated that about 71 percent of individuals will not live past the first year of diagnosis and the disease is projected to move from the third leading cause of cancer-related death to the second by 2020.

Tragically, the five-year survival rate for those with pancreatic cancer is nine percent—the lowest survival rate among major forms of cancer. We must utilize all federal resources available to meet this devastating disease head on and ensure better outcomes for patients and their families. That is why I have consistently advocated for an increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to ensure that projects—including those which seek to find cures, improve treatments and gain a better understanding of the complex causes of cancers that affect millions of Americans—are well funded. This fall, I supported an increase in funding for NIH in the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which includes \$5.5 billion for the National Cancer Institute.

I also urged the House Appropriations Committee to include pancreatic cancer as an eligible research category in the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP)—and the House bill, which passed on June 16th, maintained this eligibility. The Department of Defense conducts high-impact innovative research through the PRCRP that has been used to improve early detection of pancreatic cancer, to better understand the prognosis of pancreatic cancer patients, and to improve the well-being of individuals with a pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

While these resources for pancreatic cancer are an important investment, we know that so often laudable initiatives and innovative research projects sit idle because of funding limitations. Therefore, we must continue to work to ensure that these research projects receive sufficient resources.

Those suffering from pancreatic cancer, as well as their loved ones and caregivers, need vocal advocates on Capitol Hill to ensure access to quality care and treatments. We have a duty to see that programs which research detection and treatment are supported appropriately at a federal level. It is my hope that, by recognizing Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, we can raise awareness of the risks of pancreatic cancer and the urgency to treat it.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in Congress and with advocates across the nation as we move forward in this fight against cancer.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA AND ARLIN BELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barbara and Arlin Bell of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 15, 2017.

Barbara and Arlin's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO DALE SUNDERMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dale Sunderman of Atlantic, Iowa, who recently celebrated 40 years of service in the Cass County Auditor's office. Dale has served as County Auditor since 1984.

Dale began employment in the Cass County Auditor's office on October 10, 1977. Dale said, "I was hired because of my background in mathematics and accounting. Logic is a good part of the job, too." His first role was to assist with the elections. Dale said he has seen many changes in the Auditor's office over the years from a manual record keeping process to the modern computer technology of today. He said he has worked with many different county supervisors, and he felt he always had a great working relationship with them, and focused on serving the citizens of Cass County.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Dale Sunderman for the 40 years of service he has provided to the citizens of Cass County, Iowa. He is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can make a difference in so many lives. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dale and wishing him nothing but continued success in all his endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BERTA AND CHARLIE KORDICK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Berta and